

**REMARKS**

Claim 9 has been incorporated into claim 1, thereby obviating the rejections under §§ 102 and 112. As claim 9 was stated to be allowable in the present Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims are also allowable.

Claims 46-68 have been canceled, thereby obviating the objections and rejections to these claims.

Other minor amendments to the claims have been made to clarify the nature of the claimed subject matter. Specifically,

- a. the proviso previously incorporated into claim 1 has been deleted;
- b. the phrase "the sulfur atom of each sulfur containing compound are optionally oxidised to form a sulfoxide or sulfone" in claim 9 has been revised to read "the sulfur atom of each sulfur containing compound is optionally a sulfoxide or sulfone" in claim 1; and
- c. the phrase "or salt thereof" has been inserted into the dependent claims to remove any possible ambiguity.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully solicited. If the examiner believes a teleconference will advance prosecution, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned as indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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